



Stephanie Rawlings-Blake
Mayor

PLANNING COMMISSION

Wilbur E. "Bill" Cunningham, Chairman



Thomas J. Stosur
Director

STAFF REPORT

December 16, 2010

REQUEST: City Council Bill #10-0623/City Property – Naming the Parcel of Land known as Ward 4, Section 11, Block 890, Lots 15B and 15C to be Pierce's Park

For the purpose of naming the parcel of land known as Ward 4, Section 11, Block 890, Lots 15B and 15C to be Pierce's Park.

RECOMMENDATION: Approval, subject to lease agreement.

STAFF: Robert Quilter

PETITIONER: Waterfront Partnership of Baltimore

OWNER: Mayor and City Council

SITE/ GENERAL AREA

Site Conditions: This aggregate parcel of land is located on Pier 5 in the Inner Harbor Area at the western terminus of Eastern Avenue. It is just over one acre in size and is zoned B-5-1. It is currently passive open space improved with paving and landscaping that was constructed as part of the public plaza for the Columbus Center, located just to the north. To the south are the Eastern Avenue turnabout and the Pier 5 Hotel. To the west is the historic Coast Guard ship the Taney, berthed at the western side of Pier 5. Further west is the Aquarium and the Power Plant development on Pier 4. To the east is Pier 6 with its parking garage and concert pavilion and the southern edge of the Jones Falls.

General Area: The subject City property is located on Pier 5 in the Inner Harbor area. The area features the waterfront promenade and parkland that generally rings the harbor's edge. Many notable buildings and visitor attractions are located in this area. To the north, across Pratt Street is the heart of Downtown Baltimore.

HISTORY:

- Ordinance #1188, approved November 19, 1971, established the Inner Harbor East Urban Renewal Area.
- Ordinance #03-614, approved October 28, 2003, provided the fourteenth and last amendment to that Area Plan.
- Ordinance #07-417, approved April 24, 2007, established the Waterfront Management District.

- On December 2, 2010, the Planning Commission recommended approval of City Council Bill #10-0619/Waterfront Management District and Waterfront Management Authority – Renewal Through April 23, 2015.

CONFORMITY TO PLANS

City Council Bill #10-0623/City Property Naming is consistent with the overall goals of the Inner Harbor East Urban Renewal Plan. It also addresses the Comprehensive Plan's PLAY section, Goal 3 – Increase the Attractiveness of Baltimore's Natural Resources and Open Spaces for Recreation and to Improve Water Quality; Objective 1 – Maintain a Well-managed System of Parks & Open Spaces and Objective 3 – Complete the Harbor Promenade and Middle Branch park/trail systems.

ANALYSIS

City Council Bill #10-0623 would authorize the City to name an aggregate parcel of open space land on Pier 5 Inner Harbor as Pierce's Park. Currently the parcel is improved with paving and landscaping associated with the public plaza area around the Christopher Columbus Center.

Since 2007, the Waterfront Partnership has officially coordinated maintenance and enhancement of public and private open space around Baltimore's harbor from the Rusty Scupper on Key Highway to Browns Wharf in Fells Point. As part of a strategy to improve the environment around the waterfront, the Partnership proposes to construct a one acre park on this site. The Park is intended to provide recreational and passive open space for the public in general and more specifically families with young children visiting and living near the Inner Harbor area. This specific site is strategically located along the waterfront promenade and adjacent to several harbor attractions – namely the Aquarium, Pier 5 Hotel, the Power Plant and the Columbus Center. It will provide needed open space that is designed with young children in mind as a respite within the popular Inner Harbor area. The specific design for this new park space is currently going through the review process with Planning's Urban Design and Architectural Review Panel. It is also being reviewed to ensure that it meets all Critical Area requirements.

Relative to the naming of the proposed park and as stated in the bill, Pierce J. Flanigan, III, was born and raised in Baltimore. As reported in *the Baltimore Sun*, as a young man he joined his family's business, P.Flanigan & Sons, which had been founded by his great-grandfather, in 1885. According to his son, Pierce J. Flanigan, IV, he took a small, traditional family contracting business and made it a nationally recognized leader in the industry and completed many projects in the region. In addition to working on economic development projects that benefited Baltimore City and the surrounding metropolitan region, he also contributed his time and energy to civic betterment projects. Pierce Flanigan served on the boards of Catholic Charities, Bryn Mawr School, Union Memorial Hospital, and the Waterfront Partnership of Baltimore, Inc. He also served on advisory committees for Governors Martin O'Malley and William Donald Schaefer. After Pierce Flanigan's death, several Waterfront Partnership board members suggested that it would be a fitting tribute to name the park after this man who contributed so much to the City of Baltimore.

The Planning Department is supportive of the proposed legislation and recommends, that the aforementioned City property be named Pierce's Park.

BDC, Downtown Partnership of Baltimore, Waterfront Partnership and adjacent businesses were notified of this action.

Thomas J. Stosur
Director